

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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April 11, 2003

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To: California Organic Industry
Agricultural Commissioners

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided funds to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to be distributed to operations that have been certified organic by a USDA accredited certifier. Any operation in California that has been certified between the dates of October 1, 2002 and September 30, 2003 may apply for 75 percent of their certification cost (maximum of \$500.00) to be reimbursed.

The USDA cost share program is on a first come first served basis. When the funds provided to California have all been expended the cost share program will cease to exist under this agreement unless additional funds have been provided to CDFA.

The applicant must submit the application form (enclosed) along with a copy of certification and a copy of the associated expenses required by your certifier to maintain your certification.

The application forms are available at the following locations:

- Each certifier operating in California.

- Each county agricultural commissioners office.

- Website at www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/fveqc/organic.htm

- Upon request to the California Organic Program manager

For additional information contact Ray Green at the numbers provided above.

Sincerely,

Ray Green, Supervisor
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services

RG/rg

Enclosure